

CHAIR:
Energy and Utilities Committee

MEMBER:
Higher Education and Tourism
Joint Committee on Audit
State Building Commission

ROBERT L. COWLES

Wisconsin State Senator • 2nd Senate District

February 14, 2007

Members of the Senate Committee on Ethics Reform and Government Operations
330 SW
State Capitol

Dear Chairman Risser and Members:

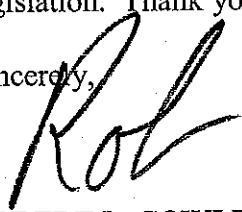
I am writing to express my support for SB-106, important ethics reform legislation authored by my friend, Senator Lasee. This bill will prohibit convicted felons from becoming lobbyists for a period of five years from the date of conviction.

As you know, it is not uncommon for state legislators to become lobbyists after they have left office. However, currently no law prohibits convicted legislators from lobbying, even if they were convicted of a felony. A similar bill, 2005 SB-417, passed the Senate by a voice vote last session, but failed to pass the Assembly.

Increasingly, our constituents perceive there to be a culture of corruption in Madison. When disgraced, *felon* lawmakers are removed from office, they should be *fully* removed from the Capitol. We must do more than merely push them outside the Senate or Assembly Chambers. This bill is a small but important step toward restoring Wisconsinites' faith in good state government.

I would urge you to contact Senator Lasee or myself if you have questions on this legislation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



ROBERT L. COWLES
STATE SENATOR